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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

1910-11



EDMONTON:

Jas. E. Richards, Government Printer
1911

Edmonton, November 1, 1911

THE HONORABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA
Parliament Buildings

SIR,—

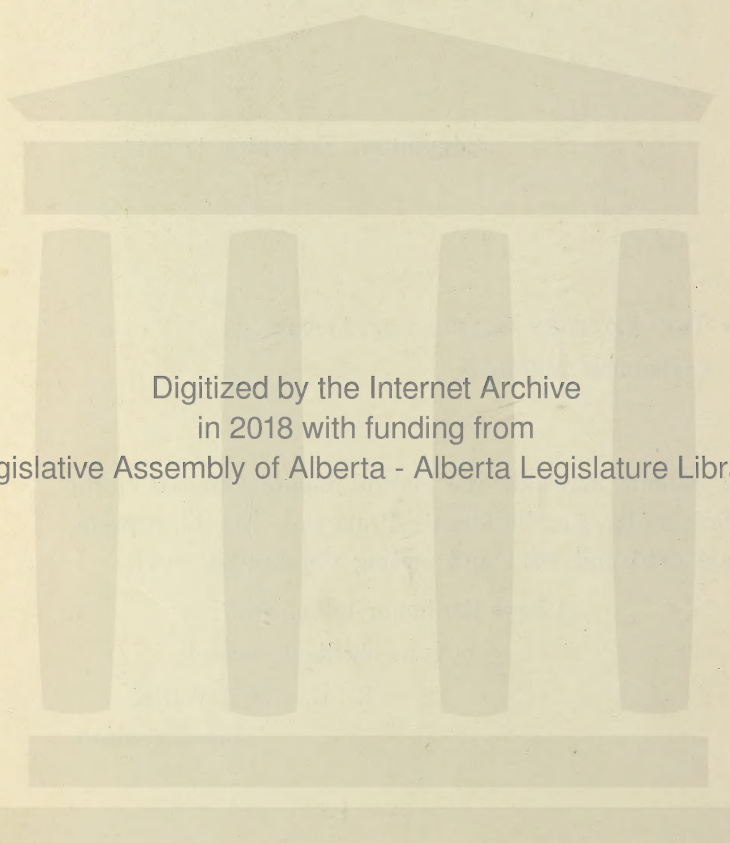
I beg to submit herewith the Second Biennial Report of the work of this office, under the Children's Protection Act of Alberta, being for the years 1910 and 1911 and ending October 1st, 1911.

I have the honor to be, Sir

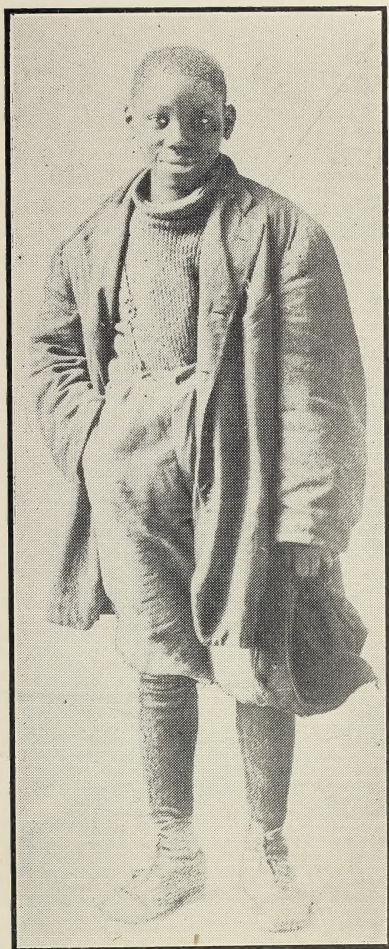
Your obedient servant,

R. B. CHADWICK,

Superintendent.



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THE CHILD

The child, considered as a member of the human species, is incapable of social functions. He is restricted to physical individualism; he is not yet a full human being but rather a candidate for humanity. His elders provide his food, his clothing, a place for him to sleep and his ideas. He is a creature of impressions, a reflection of environment, consequently a dependent, whose future is in the process of being moulded by the ideas, conventions, and the physical impressions with which his young life comes in contact. Recent teaching of psychology and ethics have formed the theory that conscience and character are developmental; thus making the problem of the child one of construction and not one of repression, as is so often done.

First Period

Roughly speaking child life falls into three distinct periods. The first eight years may be regarded as one period. This is the age of absolute dependency for all things physical and mental, upon its elders. The neglected child and the delinquent child of this age are one. The child is not responsible and only reflects the home from which he comes.



Second Period

The second period is from nine to thirteen years of age, new traits of character appear and the child who was "cute" at five is found to be absurd at nine when he repeats the tricks so carefully taught him as a baby, their instinctiveness has vanished. During this period, the mind development enlarges the importance of reasoning. The child of this age, however, is deficient in prudence and foresight and as a rule is unconscious to some degree of the effect of his acts. He is selfish, cruel and affectionate by turns; is impatient and desirous of seeing cause and effect brought into the closest kind of relationship. His morals are just forming and are largely the result of imitation, which is very strong. His habits are rapidly taking shape, and as a rule he picks out a hero to copy. Fortunately, indeed, is the child of this age who comes in contact with a wholesome adult who can unconsciously guide the youngster to the right idea of citizenship.



Third Period

The third period of child life, and possibly the one fraught with the most dangers for both boys and girls, is that between the ages of thirteen and seventeen years. The formation of habits is practically completed during this period and the child's future is set for either an ascending or descending career. Emotional disturbances are more fre-

quent during this period than any other time during life. It is significant that the religious impulse is stronger during these years than at any other time, and that the religious impulse has its counterpart in wayward impulse and criminal instinct. These coming to the surface at this time make it necessary



THE IMPULSIVE AGE

to be doubly watchful of the child during this period, for if the incorrigibility which is so evident in so many children during this time is not properly directed and taken care of, it will lead to fixed habits of a criminal tendency. During this period the child is up against the most serious time of its life. Rapid physical and mental growth, lack of knowledge of how to conduct

itself under new conditions and circumstances, the ambitions and desires of men and women with the experience of children to carry them through this trying time, are but a few of the many trials to which the child is subjected.

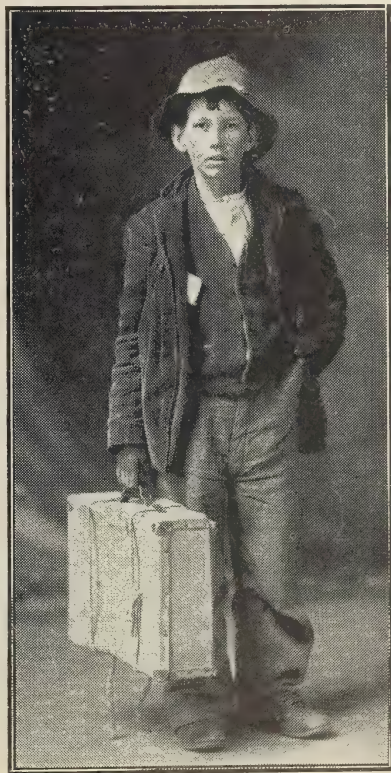


Why Laws for the Protection of Children are Necessary

Were it not for the existence of laws which are designed for the protection of children, the question of child labor, child neglect, child criminality and child degeneracy would become such an overwhelming one that it would be impossible to stem the tide of neglect and criminality that would be developed as a result of these conditions.

The Make Up of a New Country

The factors which go to make up a new country are as numerous as are the people who come; not only each nationality brings in its customs, but each family and individual contributes its own peculiar habits, with the result that Western Canada to-day is a heterogeneous mixture from all parts of the world, and the problem of Western Canada is, that of absorbing this mixture and of bringing all of these various people to the standard of high grade Canadian Citizenship. The statistics of the Department of Immigration would indicate that almost every country on the face of the earth is represented in the mixture of people that have even where the majority are English speaking children with all the advantages of race and language in their favor.

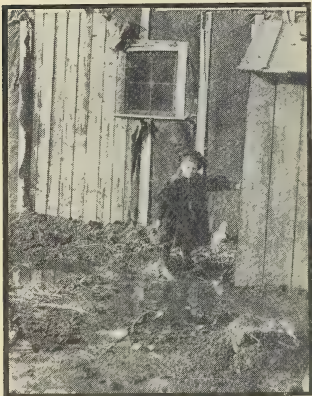


come to Alberta in the past few years. The average group who have come to this country have come with the idea of bettering their conditions, and have introduced problems which have to be faced sooner or later. To illustrate, the foreigner in our schools presents the occasional problem of turning up at school absolutely lacking in knowledge of language or customs of the country, but in a short time the same child whose mind is active will frequently stand at the head of a class,

The foreign born child who acquires the language of a nation before its parents, offers a peculiar problem in delinquency, as it has the advantage of the knowledge of the language, and frequently knowledge of custom of its English speaking associates, which its parents have not acquired, consequently homes

THE
FOREIGN
BORN CHILD

of foreign born people at times become breeding spots of crime among children, in spite of the desire of the parents to be respecting, law abiding citizens.



City Problem

The tendency of all life to become urban has its effects upon the contributory streams to neglect, delinquency or crime. Urban life, unfortunately, produces bad housing and bad home conditions among the poorer class of people. Consequently by bad housing conditions, an atmosphere of crime and immorality is developed. The young girl, in particular, who comes from the crowded district of the city is beginning to present a problem which must be met in the near future in the Province of Alberta.





History of the Work Done in the Province of Alberta

First Work for Neglected Children

The first work done for children in the Province of Alberta, in an organized way, as far as the government was concerned, was done under the "Industrial School Act." At that time it was deemed advisable to introduce an Industrial School and an Act was prepared and passed by the Legislative Assembly and an amount was set aside to start such an institution.

The matter was further gone into and the scheme for the time, at least, was abandoned in favor of an agreement with the Province of Manitoba, whereby boys, in need of the care of a Reformatory Institution, could be dealt with at the Industrial Training School of Portage la Prairie.



The Act for Protection of Children

The first work among neglected children was done under the Industrial School's Act, but the Act was not wide enough to meet the requirements, consequently the Children's Protection Act was introduced in 1909.

Under the provisions of the Children's Protection Act, the meaning of a neglected child is made sufficiently broad to meet almost any condition or contingency which may arise in reference to the question of what constitutes a neglected child.

Cases of Reported Neglect Investigated

In the event of a report being received from any source that a child is being either abused or neglected in any way, it becomes the duty of one of the departmental officers to investigate and report upon the condition of the case, and to warn parents in the event of cruelty or neglect. If warning is not sufficient, the child is ordered out of the home and placed in a Shelter and an application for a Court's Order is made whereby the child is made over to the care of the Department. This requires the order of a Judge, under the meaning of the Children's Protection Act, and such order once procured cannot be recalled unless by an order of a Judge from a Superior Court.

Children Sent to Shelters

When a child is once placed in the hands of the Department, it is sent to a Children's Shelter wherein it is thoroughly examined for physical or mental defects. If such defects are found, and if

DEFECTS	of a minor nature, they are corrected by medical men
CORRECTED	who usually give their services free for this work. The child is then watched for a month or two, and if nothing further develops, is considered a fit subject to place in a foster home.

Application for Foster Parents

Individuals who desire to adopt children get in communication with the Department and fill out application blank forms in which a

great deal of information regarding home conditions, ability to provide for and maintain a child, agreements regarding school and religious training are entered into. If the home is satisfactory, and if three high grade individuals will vouch for the respectability of the home and the ability of the applicants to provide for a child, a child is selected, which is thought fit for the home conditions, and sent on trial. If at the end of thirty days or more, the child does not fit into the home or the home is not the right one for the child, the child is again removed to the nearest Shelter and re-submitted to another home at a later date. Of all the applications received by the Department of Neglected Children over forty per cent. are turned down as undesirable after investigation by the Department. During the past two years something over four hundred and twenty-five applications for children have been received.

**HIGH
GRADE
HOMES
REQUIRED**

**CHILDREN
SENT ON
TRIAL**

Twenty Per Cent of Cases Rehanded

The experience of the Department in Alberta has been, that about twenty per cent. of all children handled are misfits and have to be replaced the second, third, or sometimes as many as six or seven times before the right home is found for them.

Applications from Alberta Given Preference

Children are placed as far as possible in the Province of Alberta first because an application from this Province should receive first attention; and, secondly, because of the greater ease of supervision and the easier possibility of removing the child in the event of the foster home proving unsatisfactory.

The Alberta System

The system used in Alberta is known as the "Placing-out System" and there is much to be said in favor of it. From the economic standpoint it is the correct way of dealing with the child, as it gives the child all the advantages of life under moral home conditions. The child's duty in life is primarily to learn to be a good citizen and under the system of placing in foster homes, as used in this Province, the child stands a much greater chance of learning the rules and laws governing the circumstances of life in general, than it could possibly stand in even the best of institutions, where of a necessity rules and discipline are of a most rigid character and the child's life is moulded into a groove of repeated habit.

Children Happy in Foster Homes

The question that is often asked, "Are children happy in foster homes?" can be answered by a decided "yes" if the children with which this Department has dealt in the past few years can be taken as a criterion of the whole Placing-Out system. It must be plainly understood, however, that the success of the system depends on the investigation to which a foster home is submitted before a child is placed in it.

During the past two years some two hundred and twelve children have been placed in foster homes in the Province. The majority of these children are under the age where they would have any earning capacity, and have been adopted by people who are desirous of having children in their homes for the sake of the children. A great many of the children who have been adopted are infants under two years of age, and in many cases illegitimate children who have come to the hands of the Department through conditions of neglect and cruelty.

Where children are of working age, that is, children over fourteen years of age, have been dealt with and it is found that the idea of the applicant is to secure the services of the child, the earning capacity of the child is protected and wages in proportion to its working ability are deposited in some bank agreed upon, and vouchers for these deposits



are required by the Department. A large number of children have been dealt with who are receiving in some cases as high as twelve to fifteen dollars per month, and who, when they reach the age of eighteen years, will find that they have an amount of money in the bank when they desire to start out in life for themselves.

The Abuse of the Placing-Out System



The "Placing-out System" as abused by some organizations who have placed children in farmers' homes and other homes in Canada, is a disgrace, as children have been sent in groups of thirty and forty and peddled out to any who would receive them, absolutely without investigation of home conditions and absolutely without inspection after they have been so placed.

The child's happiness is the greatest consideration of the Department, and if a child is not happy in a home, it is sufficient reason for removal, for no child can ever be a good citizen who has not had its right of a happy childhood.

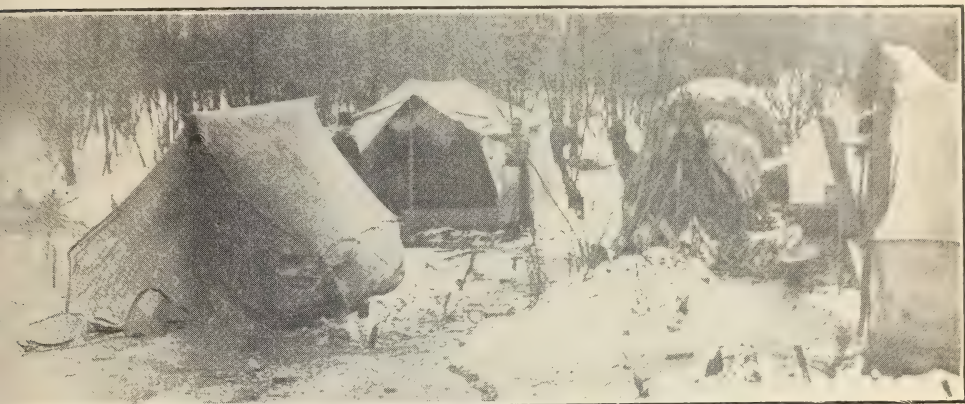
Children Inspected

The system of inspection which requires that every child placed through the medium of this Department shall be visited one or more times in a year gives an inspector a chance to see and know the circumstances of the children's lives, and if in the opinion of an inspector a child is not as happy as it should be his instructions are to recommend its removal immediately.

Every child who has ever been placed out by this Department has been visited one or more times during the past two years, but the lack of sufficient inspectors has made it impossible to cover the ground as often and as thoroughly as should be done.

When to Release Foster Homes from Supervision

There is a danger of releasing families, in which children have been placed, from supervision just a little too soon. Against this there is the danger of being over-watchful and offending the foster parents by the too frequent visitation of the Inspector. This feature of the work, of course, has to be handled with much care and tact, in order to avoid giving offence. There comes a time in the history of every case when it is wise to relax and suspend supervision. This desirable stage is reached when the foster parents have shown their capacity to view the child entrusted to their care as their own child in every respect.



The Home of a Neglected Child



PROBATION

Probation is a system of release under supervision in the case of a juvenile delinquent. If it is found that a child is forming habits of petty criminality or is associating with other children who show tendencies toward habits which eventually result



in crime, such child may be taken before a judge, under the meaning of the Children's Protection Act, and if in the opinion of the judge circumstances warrant such action the child may be released to some individual who is willing to undertake to act as his probation officer. Under this arrangement an agreement is entered into, in which the child signs a form in which he promises to report promptly and regularly to his probation officer, and to obey all municipal laws and laws of the country. Other conditions may be placed upon him by the judge in charge of the case if he sees fit to do so.

The Probation Officer

The success of probation depends entirely upon the amiable relationship between the probationer and the probation officer. The probation officer must be a man of wide enough experience of life to know the reasons for the child's delinquency, and be shrewd enough to change the entire conditions of a home without disturbing its equilibrium. This of a necessity takes a man who is willing to give more or less time to his charge and to become the companion of the boy. In dozens of cases which have been dealt with by volunteer probation officers through this Department in the past two years, the entire home atmosphere has been changed from one of neglect and despair to one of hope and pride in the home.

In many cases the probation officer has suggested that for the sake of the child it would be advisable for the family to find a new home environment and has succeeded in moving the family from one district to another and of introducing new friends to the home, whose influence has been of an uplifting nature.

The Success of Probation



The system of probation as used in Alberta is eminently successful among first offenders. In all probability about ninety-eight per cent. of all cases of children who have been placed on probation as first offenders make a good record. Probation must be used with discretion, or it is bound to fall down and become a menace rather than a help to the class to which it is extended.

The Dangers of Probation

For the hardened offender probation is not only unsuccessful but is positively dangerous, as it ex-

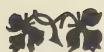
tends to that individual the mild form of moral suasion and depends upon an honor with which his character does not seem to be endowed.

Great care should be used in extending the use of probation to children of any kind, and under no circumstances should probation be extended unless a report of the home conditions has first been secured and such report submitted to the judge in charge of the case, with a recommendation from the officer investigating home circumstances attached.

The object of probation is the prevention of crime, punishment and reformation of the offender without the stigma of imprisonment. As a general rule a child guilty of a first offence finds it a severe check upon his pride to be compelled to report to some officer, and the effect is one of two things: the probationer either corrects the conditions and becomes a law abiding and normal child, or he becomes precocious, learns to dodge the law which has tripped him and placed him in the embarrassing position of having to report to an officer appointed by the judge.

Unresponsive Cases

A large number of cases that are dealt with can be readily described as unresponsive cases, that is, the parents or guardians of the children dealt with either do not know enough to understand the value of good citizenship; they are careless and do not care very much as to whether a child is a criminal or not, or in some cases they are of a criminal type and encourage the child in a criminal career. Under circumstances of this kind it is advisable to consider that the child is neglected, under the meaning of the Children's Protection Act, and the recommendation usually made is that the child be removed from the home and placed in the hands of the Department of Neglected Children, as a child to be placed in a foster home. The new environment and clean, healthy life frequently results in such child becoming a normal citizen in a short time.



THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Subjects for Industrial School

The more hardened type of children can be dealt with only under the rigid system of discipline offered in an Industrial Training School. A child who is in the habit of defying authority, an habitual thief, an incorrigible or a child who does not respond to the milder treatment of probation or to the influences which are thrown around him by the Department of Neglected Children, becomes a subject for the Industrial School.



Congregate Type of Institution

Industrial Schools generally are classed as congregated types and cottage types. Under the congregated system a central building is provided in which not only the administrative quarters, but the teaching and the sleeping accommo-

dations for children are grouped, sometimes forty or fifty or even a larger number of children are thus grouped in one building, the separation of the sexes being the only consideration.



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE,
MANITOBA

Cottage Type of Institution

Under the cottage type the children are divided into groups of from ten to twenty, and each group is assigned to a cottage "Mother and Father." Each group is made up of kindred spirits and children who are temperamentally fitted to come in contact with each other. The idea of home life is fostered and developed and the cottage group taught to regard itself as a family.

Object of Industrial Schools

All Industrial Schools aim at the correction of crime by a system of rigid discipline and industrial training combined with wholesome food, supervised play and a general atmosphere of good will.

Success of Industrial Schools

Industrial Schools are regarded as successful in about forty per cent. of cases; about sixty per cent. of children dealt with in Industrial Schools enter lives of crime at a later period. It is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the percentage of inmates of Industrial Schools who become recidivists.

As a general rule a boy who is returned to his home after a term in an Industrial School becomes dissatisfied with the home conditions,



A Group from the Shelter at Calgary

as under the regulations under which he has been working for a year or two, he has grown more or less used to order, industry, cleanliness and care. Unfortunately the average child who is sent to an Industrial School comes from a home in which these conditions have been entirely neglected, or have been administered in a careless and slovenly way. While there are occasional boys coming from the best of homes, whom it is necessary to send to such institutions, the large percentage of reformatory inmates come from the poorer homes and from the congested districts.

No Industrial School in Alberta

Up to the present time it has not been advisable to build an institution of the Industrial School type in the Province of Alberta, owing to the fact that it has been possible to make an agreement with the Province of Manitoba whereby all boys in need of Industrial School training can be dealt with in the Manitoba institution at a comparatively small cost to the Alberta government.

This system has taken care of the delinquent boy up to the present date, and there is no reason why it should not continue to cope with the problem so long as the percentage of boys in need of reformatory training in Alberta does not assume a larger proportion in relation to its population than at present.

The Tendency of the Institution

Were a large institution erected in the Province, the tendency would be to send children to that institution who could be more readily disposed of in foster homes, and disposed of with a greater advantage to the child, and a greater advantage to the state.

During the past two years there have been twenty-six boys sentenced to the Industrial School at Portage la Prairie. The report of the Superintendent of the Industrial School, which is appended hereto, would indicate that the majority of these boys are endeavoring to retrieve the advantages which they have lost, and are working toward the idea of a speedy release.



THE DEFECTIVE CHILD

Need of Provision for Defective Children

The defective child offers one of the most serious problems which the Department of Neglected Children is facing. The number of defective children in the Province of Alberta must be in the neighborhood of seventy-five or eighty who are in need of institutional training and care. While minor defects such as adenoids, eye trouble, ear, nose and throat trouble can be corrected in the Shelters, and are constantly being corrected in these institutions, it is impossible to deal with the more serious cases of mental and physical defects which are constantly arising and should be cared for.

The arrangements which the Department of Education have with the Province of Manitoba for dealing with the deaf and dumb children of the Province, and for dealing with the blind children with Ontario, are most admirable. A similar arrangement should be made for taking care of the physical and mental defectives, or better, an institution should be developed in close proximity to the university, in which such cases could be gathered together and treated. This institution could be made use of for the purpose of giving the medical students of the university the advantage of practical demonstrations and lectures on the treatment of defectives.



EXTRACTS FROM SOME LETTERS

"The boy is progressing fine, he promises to be a good man, but he is delicate. Poor little fellow, he had a hard time of it, and so did I when I was a little chap, and I want to help this fellow over the rough spots. I have spent a lot of money on doctors, but the boy is going to come through it. As the doctor says, it is pretty tough for a little chap to live in neglect and cruelty for the starting years of his life, but he is going to make a dandy man and will some day be a doctor himself if I can make him one. 'Yes, sir, we are satisfied and we like the boy.'"



"Victoria and Cecil are doing fine. Victoria stood head of her class last year and is making fine progress at her music. She is growing to be a beautiful child with such lots of curly golden hair. Cecil is not as good at school but he is a regular farmer, and has care of the chickens. He made \$20.00 out of his chickens last month. He is sturdy, strong and good tempered. It would be hard to beat our span of children."

"Jeanie will be sixteen soon, and I must give her credit for being the model girl of this neighborhood. She sings the solos at our choir, and has a lovely alto voice; she is the vice-president of our young peoples' society, and we are very proud of her. She does nearly all our baking, she can sew beautifully and makes most of her own clothes, and trims her own hats. She is very grateful to you for sending her to us, and we are very grateful that we have her for she is so like my own little girl that died five years ago."

"We now believe you were right about Joe, we cannot do anything with him.

He lies about everything, he is dirty about his person, and he abuses everything about the place. Yesterday we caught him prodding a little calf with a sharp stick, and last week he tied up a colt and beat it with a shovel, also stole two dollars from the school teacher and set a fire going on the tool-shed floor. 'We cannot do anything with him and would like you to take him away.'"

"I am getting on fine and like my home. Papa has given me a calf for my own, and I can make butter. I go to school and like my teacher. Mamma and papa are just lovely to me and I do want to stay so much."

"I am going over with Mr. ——— to pick out my homestead and if I get the one I want it will be near his. I will preempt the next quarter, and Mr. ——— is going to go shares with me on the stock. I now have six horses of my own, which Mr. ——— gave me and I also have three cows, these I bought with the money I made teaming last winter. I guess it was a pretty good thing for me I was picked up and turned over to you. I felt pretty sore at the time but now see that I was heading for the 'coop' alright. I want to thank you for your interest and kindness to me and even if I am out of your care I want to write once in a while and keep good friends with you. Mr. ——— says if I keep straight and make good I will get all he has, for he has no children of his own. I don't like that as I want to make my own way, but he is only about forty-five and looks as if he will be a hundred when he dies. 'I ain't going to worry much.'"

"In reply to your enquiry would say that the little girl has been with us for eighteen months now and is more than satisfactory to us. She attended the ——— school regularly, she likes her teacher immensely and seems to be well liked by the



The Pride of Foster Parents

children. The doubt sometimes enters our minds whether the little girl will turn out as good as a child of our own would have done, as you know, we know nothing about her antecedents, but we do know that a good environment has everything to do with girls and boys, and with men and women. The fact that we got the little girl so very young, will, we hope, overcome any tendency towards wrong doing which she may have. We like the little girl immensely and she more than repays the time and love which we put on her. We wish you more success in your work every day."



"I have just been to see the little girl which was placed in the home of Mrs. ——— and she is such a lovely child that I want to know if you can find me one just like her. We have no children of our own, and we would consider that we have been honored if we can have charge of such a girl as this. She is going to turn out a fine woman and make her foster parents very fond of her. I am requested by Mrs. ——— to say that Nellie sends her love to you and that she says she is going to come head in her class this year."

"When Tom came to us he was such a neglected mean looking child that we were awfully disappointed in him. He said that it was his first time in weeks that he had slept in a real good bed. Since he came here he has brightened up so much that he is the huskiest looking boy in this district. He can do as much work as any man that we have ever had, and we feel so much satisfied with him that we want to pay him \$10 a month, as we think he is worth it. We will deposit this money in the Post Office bank. He

does not take willingly to school, but we, of course, want him to attend until he gets a much better education than he has at present, but he has a natural inclination towards farming, likes animals and takes a great pride in all the stock about the place. He is very much in fear that his father will turn up and try to take him away from us. We hope that this condition will not arise, and if it does, we expect you to give us the necessary instructions as to how the child is to be protected. We are more than satisfied with the success with which this boy is meeting."

"I have been in this home for fifteen months and like the place fine. Mr. ——— pays me \$5 every month and better than that treats me like his own son. Of course, I have to do lots of work, but I am learning something all the time. I have a pony of my own which Mr. ——— gave me. In the fall and winter I go to school and I am now in the fourth book. I had to punch a boy's head at school because he called me a "Banardo boy," but they have quit that now, and every boy calls me "Jack." I want to stay here and learn to be a farmer with Mr. ———. He says that when I am old enough he will get me a homestead near him."

"I want to let you know that I like my home very much. Papa just bought me a nice new doll and mama got me a doll's carriage. I think that they are just lovely and I will always stay here and be their little girl."

The above letters from foster parents and from children are the best indication that can be given of the degree of success with which the department is meeting in placing children in foster homes. The fact that these children are visited and great care taken before they are allowed to go to foster homes, in all probability, is the reason for the tone of the above letters. Failures, of course, are met with, but the percentage of success is sufficient to warrant the work being extended as rapidly as circumstances will permit.



Men of To-morrow

THE PROBLEM OF THE GIRL

The Girl in Alberta

The boy problem has become such a common one that it is unusual to speak of the girl problem, but nevertheless the girl problem is just as much in evidence in Alberta as is the boy problem and something should be done at once to meet the pressing need for one or more women who would act in the capacity of probation officers to deal with the peculiar problem which the girl offenders, particularly in the larger centres of population in Alberta.



**WOMEN
PROBATION
OFFICERS
NEEDED**

Employed Girls

A great many young girls, that is, girls under eighteen years of age, are employed in the hotels and restaurants of the Province. Possibly in some of these places every effort is made to make the women employees happy and comfortable, and to protect them from coming in contact with the evil side of life. In other places, however, they not only come in contact with conditions of laxity and immorality and hear and take part in conversations which must have an undermining effect on their womanhood, but they are encouraged to use their positions for purposes of making engagements with the male patrons whom they are serving.

Lack of Home Influence

The majority of these girls have cut loose from home influences, and in all probability in some cases come from homes where crime and immorality are more or less common. The more urban and more complex that life becomes, the greater problem there is to contend with in dealing with the girl in the city.

Crime Among Girls

It is generally recognized that the majority of crimes among girls are in the nature of sex crimes. As long as vice offers a larger reward than honest effort this condition is bound not only to continue, but to increase until such time as the girl recognizes the dangers to which she is exposing herself.

Society Dreads Crime in a Boy But Possibly Has Feelings of Greater Dread Of an Immoral Life in a Girl

Possibly most boys over seventeen years of age, who are habitual offenders, have been just as guilty of sex crimes as the girls who are known as "street walkers" and to whose door the sex crime is usually charged, but as consequences are not as immediately nor as glaringly social, society is willing to overlook this condition in the boy or young man. For the girl prevention is the best cure as it is for the boy the kindest course.

It should be remembered that the average girl who is "running wild" is away from the influences of home; that she, as a rule, comes

from a home where immorality and vice are more or less common and in the majority of cases she is compelled to house herself in crowded and unsanitary quarters with others of her kind. As a general rule these girls are stubborn and untractable. They have to be dealt with by women who understand them, and who are experts in that particular work.

If a woman probation officer were appointed, it would be her duty to see that the condition of these girls is improved before they have crossed the line where they are beyond help, and, if in her opinion it is advisable that they should be removed even from their parents, such action should be taken immediately and the girls sent to some good home where everything possible should be done to turn them away from the habits and interests which have sent them wrong in the first place.

It is impossible to accomplish this desirable end until such times as there are appointed one or more women who have had the experience and who can interest the best women of the Province in a movement which would have for its object the provision of social life under normal home conditions, for these girls who have been denied the advantages of home training during their childhood. If anything is to be accomplished for the girls of the street it must be done by women alone who understand the working out of this problem.

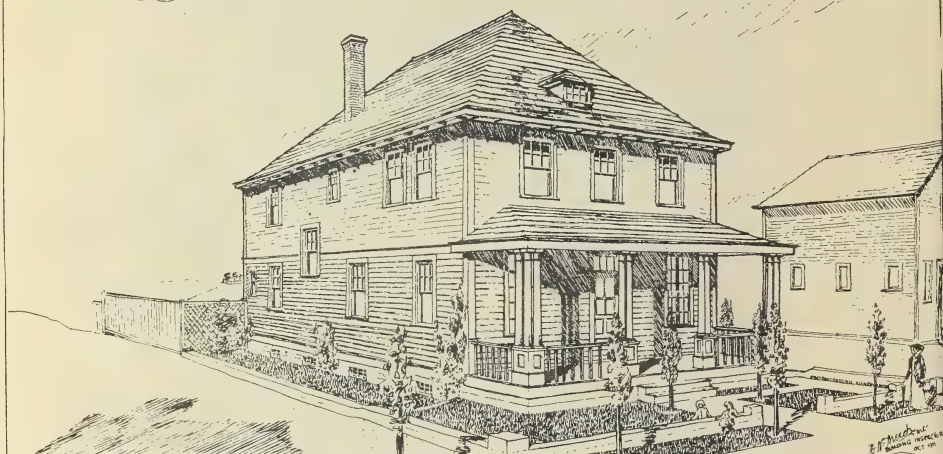
An opening for a Philanthropist

An institution or home of some kind should be provided wherein girls, who in the opinion of the women probation officers, are in danger of becoming a menace to themselves or to society, may be placed under strict discipline, and where they may find the necessary educating influences which have been neglected in their earlier training. Such institution need not be of a large size, but there should be among its departments one of industrial training and one of domestic science, wherein the inmates could learn the principles of household economy and of industry. The institution should be in charge of women of strong enough character to impress upon the girls the dangers of the life to which they are exposing themselves.

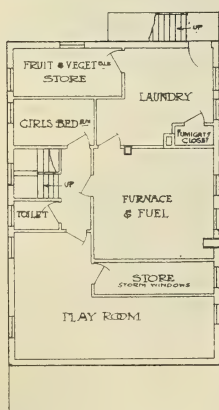


Six Children in this Home all Neglected

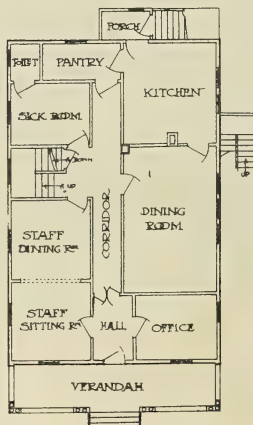
DELINQUENT CHILDRENS HOME
CITY OF
LETHBRIDGE.



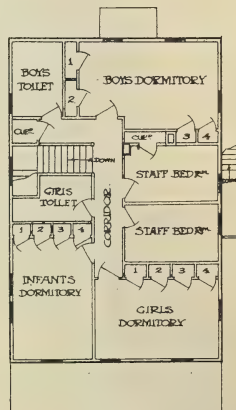
CITY OF
LETHBRIDGE. DELINQUENT CHILDRENS HOME



BASEMENT



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

Scale of Feet. 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Children's Aid Societies are in good working order in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary and in Edmonton. Officers are on the field whose duty it is to see that the Children's Protection Act is enforced, and that, not only neglected children are apprehended and parents prosecuted, but juvenile delinquents are dealt with as cases arise. A great many cases have been disposed of that would be impossible to report, the officers, as a general rule, simply straightening the matter out and not making any record of it aside from keeping a friendly oversight of the home.

The municipality of Lethbridge has a new Shelter in process of construction which will meet the needs of Lethbridge for some time to come. The municipality of Edmonton has a Shelter in process of construction, a cut of which is given in this report, and which will cost in the neighborhood of \$45,000.00. When completed the Shelter in Edmonton will undoubtedly be the finest Children's Shelter in Canada. It is expected that this building will be ready for occupancy about January 1st. The Calgary Shelter, which is situated in the old Maternity Hospital, has been renovated and put in good shape, and is accommodating most of the children from the southern part of the Province.

The Children's Shelters of the Province have taken care of the cases coming from outside points, that is, points outside of municipalities wherein no Shelters are situated, an arrangement being in existence whereby the local Children's Aid Society shall receive the care of a child for a guaranteed payment by the government. If a Court's Order is in existence after a child comes from a municipality, the sum is collected from the municipality and refunded to the government. This arrangement to the present time has been entirely satisfactory and should be allowed to continue.

Preventive Measures

In many cases of child neglect and cruelty a warning from the officer of the Children's Aid Society or committee or a warning from this Department is sufficient to change the condition of the home and of the treatment of the children involved. All officers of Children's Aid Societies and all local committees are instructed to use every means within their power to improve the home conditions in case of neglect, before the matter is taken to a court and an application made turning the custody of the child over to the Department. Many cases have been taken to court and released under supervision upon recommendation of local officers, with the result that the home conditions have been improved,



truant children have been sent to school, idle and loose parents have been steadied up to the place where they have become considerate of the children's future.

Truancy

Since the inception of the Truancy Act in this Province, the conditions among children of school age have improved perceptibly, while the Act has only been enforced for a short time, and has not been followed up as closely as it should have been; nevertheless, there is a decided improvement in the conditions of children who have heretofore been employed in street and other trades when they should have been at school. Consequently there has been a decrease since the end of the year in delinquency among children of school age.

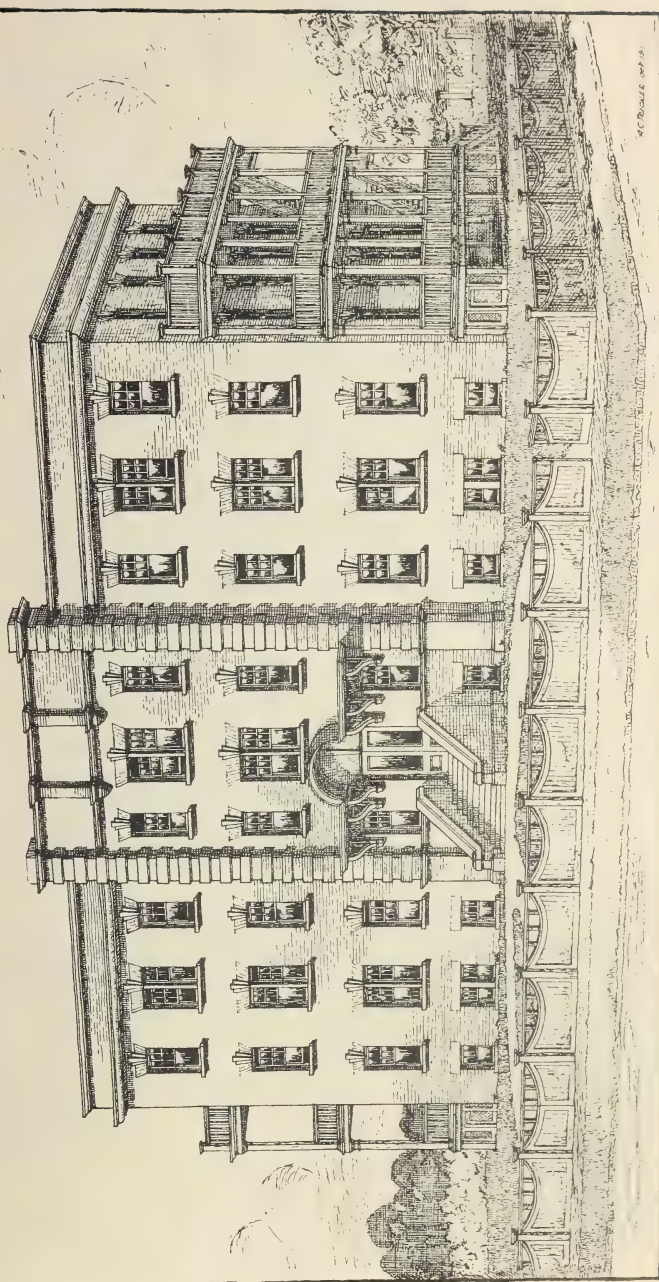


Overlapping

In the matter of dealing with cases of destitute families where there are children, the work of this Department of necessity overlaps that of the Medical Health Officer of the Province. Many cases of reported destitution reveal conditions of child neglect and cruelty that demands immediate attention; such cases are turned over to this Department to be dealt with in the regular way as neglected or dependent children.



CHILDREN'S SHELTER
 FOR
 THE CITY OF EDMONTON
 JAMES HENDERSON, ARCHT.
 1904



THE NEED

The most pressing needs of the Province at the present time in its work of child saving, are:

1. One or more women probation officers whose duties should be to head off the stream of young girls who are constantly drifting into lives of immorality and delinquency largely through ignorance.



2. An institution designed as a "parental" school, where children could be assembled and classified, the defective have his defects rectified under expert surgical and medical supervision and the degenerate receive proper institutional care and treatment.

3. The establishment of a home for wayward girls or an arrangement with some Eastern or other Institution wherein young girls could be provided with the corrective methods of a Female Reformatory or Industrial School, when the need of such treatment arises.



4. The introduction of an amendment to the Children's Protection Act whereby street trades among children will be licensed in all municipalities, and licensees will be required to wear, in a conspicuous place on their clothing, a badge provided by the local Police Departments.

5. An act to provide for the licensing of Infants' Boarding-houses whereby it will be required that such houses will be inspected by the Medical Health Officer of the municipality in which they are situated in order that young children may not be exposed to conditions of neglect as it is possible at the present time.



6. An Act for the licensing governing and of Maternity Homes and Hospitals whereby proper registration of the infants born therein shall be made, and correct records of agreements of how such infants are disposed of be turned into the Medical Health Officer and the Department of Neglected Children.

7. The introduction of the Dominion Delinquent's Act in order that parents who contribute to the delinquency of children and encourage them in wrongdoing may be prosecuted, and in order that the system of probation, which has been used with such success in this and other Provinces may be more successfully carried out.

Biennial Report of the Superintendent of the Industrial Training School at Portage la Prairie

To R. B. CHADWICK,
Supt. Neglected Children,
Edmonton.

Sir,—

During the past two years we received into the Training School from the Province of Alberta twenty-six boys, ranging in age from eleven to eighteen years. These boys, as a rule, came to us in the crudest form both as regards school standing, domestic and industrial education.

Day School

This is a branch of our work we especially aim to emphasize, for the reason that it is the part of their experience which has been most neglected, and further, that we may give every boy, no matter how short his stay with us, at least the elements of an education.

So many come here without even a beginning, others with what they have gathered with an irregular attendance at School, or picked up between spells of truancy. Then, others will come who are in the 8th Grade, thus making the wide range difficult to grade and as difficult to teach. Yet with all this handicap, the difficulties have been met and splendid progress has been made.

Nor are we without those who carry the elements of genius. All the time our teachers are discovering gifts and talents in embryo, budding ability native to the boy in various lines of art, which give distinctive promise of future usefulness, if not of eminence. None of these boys are abnormally dull, and many of them are unusually bright. On a comparison the whole registration will measure up favorably with any common school.

The two \$5.00 prizes given by Mr. Chadwick to the two Alberta boys making the best progress in all departments of School and Industrial work called forth a healthy competition, the prizes being won by John Denny and Charles Smith.

Up to the present the boys have gone regularly to School, and have found Industrial training in the Laundry, Kitchen, Stable, Poultry House, Farm, Garden, and Power House. We are busy at present equipping, and hope about the first week in February to have in operation the Tailoring, Carpentering and Blacksmithing Departments.

The Boys

As a rule these boys are not here through faults of their own. They are subjects of neglect in some form. Are they bad boys? Not at all. I have not a bad boy in the school nor a single criminal on the register. The difference between criminal and other offenders is the difference between the heart and the head. The criminal premeditates his crime, the other offender rushes into it without a thought of the result. Our boys are heady, quick, hasty, nervous, restless, and impulsive. So, alone or in a bunch, a raid is suggested and executed

without the heart being in it at all. And the deed is not thought of until they are face to face with the Magistrate.

Rarely do they show any evidence of home training. They do not know the art of stepping lightly. They stamp. Nor do they know what moving silently means. They rush. Neither do they know how to lay down a tool or an instrument. They 'slam' it down. Thus showing that the delicate side of their nature has never been touched.

Generally they are kind-hearted, fond of pets, horses, dogs and children, and as a rule kind to one another. Generosity is another of their live virtues. A box from home, or a big bag of candies will go the rounds until the last is gone. No matter what their home life has been, or how much neglected their moral qualities, there is always with them a native heart love that responds to kindness. There is nothing they can do that they will not willingly do for you.

But let no one dream that these boys are angels. They are just boys. The last of his old qualities to leave a boy, are thieving, deception and falsehood. Meeting all these converse complexions in disposition and temperament, it takes your best judgment, tact, and patience, to work, watch, and wait for the best results. But the native love that these active young spirits generate in you, for them, makes the work intensely interesting. And, after all, it is astonishing how little it takes to turn the tide of a boy's life. Just get him to see himself, then see his ideal, and you will have him at once, working with you to work out his own best destiny. You are bound sometimes to feel the discouragements of what is sometimes a slow process, but there is always the infinite compensation in the thought that you are doing something in helping to make a boy a man.

WELLINGTON BRIDGMAN,
Superintendent.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The thanks of the Department of Neglected Children are due to the many interested men and women who have given their time and money in order to help some wayward or backward child to his place in life.

To the Medical men of the Province who have given their valuable time and skilled service toward the alleviation of suffering and the removal of defects among the many children who have come to the care of the Department.

To the various organizations of the Roman Catholic Church who have assisted the Department in caring for children during the time that home conditions have been investigated, or during such time as children have needed the care of a hospital or institution.

To the Salvation Army Homes and Officers, the Ruthenian Girls Home at Edmonton and to Beulah Mission for assistance in dealing with, particularly the wayward girls, many who have been turned over to these organizations.

To the Royal North-West Mounted Police and to the Civic Police Forces of the Province for their active co-operation in making the work of the Department a success. This Department does not hesitate to say that it would be utterly impossible to carry on the work in the country districts if it were not for the co-operation received from the officers and men of the R.N.W.M.P.





STATISTICAL REPORTS

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Report of Inspector Brooke for nine months' work shows that he has covered by trail 2,884 miles and by railway 9,260 miles, making a total of 12,144 miles covered by Mr. Brooke in the work of inspection and investigation of cases of complaint in country districts. In addition to the work of Mr. Brooke, the Superintendent has travelled by trail during the past two years over 4,000 miles and by railway over 24,000 miles. Travelling matrons have covered during the past two years about 2,500 miles by trail and about 20,500 miles by railway. Thus the mileage of the Department of Neglected Children for two years being by trail 9,384 and by railway 44,760.

Mr. Brooke's report covers practically all that is necessary to cover in the nature of home inspection. The report of the travelling matron would indicate that the homes to which children are sent are of an entirely satisfactory nature, and in practically one hundred per cent. of cases dealt with the system of investigation of the homes has been fully warranted.

The report of the inspector and of the matron would indicate that it would be advisable to thoroughly inspect home conditions where foster children are placed, and have all homes investigated before a child is sent to a foster home.

Edmonton, 24th November, 1911.

R. B. CHADWICK, Esq.,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Credit Foncier Building, City.

Sir,—I beg to submit hereunder a report covering my investigation of cases, and visits to the various foster homes as from March 1st last:—

No. of Cases Investigated on Complaints Received and Dealt With
.....34

From my investigations of these cases I found neglect on the part of parents in the care of their children to be the main cause, although in some instances both parents and children alike were found to be destitute. This destitution can be put down to various causes, such for instance as sickness; loss of one or other parent; desertion; drunkenness and in some cases laziness.

No. of Children Visited in Foster Homes97

The result of these visits was entirely satisfactory in so far as the conditions of children and class of home is concerned.

The investigations and visits as above mentioned necessitated my covering a distance by road and rail of some twelve thousand odd miles.

In conclusion I am pleased to be able to report very satisfactorily in regard to the homes in which children have been placed by the Department, in not one single instance have I found cause for complaint in any way.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours obedient servant,

A. R. BROOKE,

Inspector.

DELINQUENTS

TOTAL NUMBER 616

Ages	
Seven.....	4
Eight.....	16
Nine.....	16
Ten.....	14
Eleven.....	21
Twelve.....	187
Thirteen.....	64
Fourteen.....	172
Fifteen.....	69
Sixteen.....	35
Seventeen.....	18

Religion	
Roman Catholic.....	123
Anglican.....	78
Presbyterian.....	64
Methodist.....	82
Congregationalist.....	12
Reformed Greek.....	16
Lutheran.....	28
Baptist.....	24
Salvation Army.....	8
Ruthenian.....	49
Greek Orthodox.....	13
Protestant (denomination not given).....	82
Unknown.....	37

Placing of Delinquents	
Returned to Relatives under supervision.....	61
Apprenticed to Farmers.....	18
Apprenticed to Tradesmen.....	7
R. C Institution.....	4
Deported.....	1
Ran away, lost trace of.....	3
Reformatory.....	23
Probation.....	499

Nationality	
English.....	131
Scotch.....	15
Irish.....	17

American.....	181
Canadian.....	162
German.....	12
Halfbreed.....	5
French.....	13
Austrian.....	12
Russian.....	18
Galician.....	23
Swede.....	4
Norwegian.....	4
Bohemian.....	1
Italian.....	7
Negro.....	9
Polish.....	2

Home Conditions	
Bad.....	337
Good.....	92
Fair.....	171
Unknown.....	16

Offence	
Mischief.....	87
Theft.....	381
Burglary.....	12
Incorrigibility.....	18
Assault.....	3
Vagrancy.....	29
Prostitution.....	66
Immorality.....	2
Forgery.....	8

Subsequent History	
Satisfactory.....	502
Unsatisfactory.....	61
Unknown.....	48
Died.....	5

Sex of Delinquents	
Male 527	Female 89

BOYS SENT TO REFORMATORY

Age	
Eighteen.....	2
Seventeen.....	1
Sixteen.....	3
Fifteen.....	3
Fourteen.....	7
Thirteen.....	3
Twelve.....	1
Eleven.....	3
Ten.....	3

Religion	
Roman Catholic.....	8
Lutheran.....	1
Presbyterian.....	7
Reformed Greek.....	1
Anglican.....	5
Methodist.....	3
Greek Orthodox.....	1

Nationality	
Canadian	9
American	1
Austrian	1
German	3
English	6
Scotch	3
Slav	2
Hungarian	1
Offence	
Theft	14
Forgery	3
Incorrigible	6

Receiving Stolen Property	1
Assault	1
Masked without Lawful Excuse ..	1
Sentenced	
Undefined	5
3 yrs or over	12
2 years or over	9
Discharged	2
Serving sentence	21
Escaped	3
Resentenced after parole	1

DEPENDENTS

Sex of Dependents	
Male	322
Female	234

Number dealt with 556

Age of Dependents										
Under	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	82	50	23	27	19	22	22	26	18	17
Under	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
	24	25	51	25	49	38	31	7		

Religion of Dependents	
Roman Catholics	137
Baptist	15
Presbyterian	45
Anglican	99
Methodist	41
Lutheran	35
Greek Orthodox	10
Salvation Army	11
Ruthenian	17
Protestant (denomination not given)	106
Brethren	1
Ehuddist	2
Congregationalist	3
Mormon	6
Shinto	1
Unknown	27

Ran Away	5
Died	17
Held in Shelter or Hospital	29

Placing of Dependents	
Adopted by Foster Parents	212
Returned to Relatives under supervision	223
Placed in R. C. Institution	19
Work obtained for	25
Apprenticed to Trades	7
Apprenticed to Farmers	10
Placed in Ruthenian Home	7
Deported	1
Sent to Institution for Blind	1

Nationality of Dependents	
Canadian	121
English	118
American	64
Scotch	19
Irish	7
Russian	27
Galician	5
Polish	9
Austrian	8
German	51
French	33
Norwegian	7
Swede	15
Belgian	2
Halfbreed	13
Hungarian	22
Italian	8
Bohemian	9
Danish	3
Negro	4
Ruthenian	1
Chinese	2
Japanese	1
Dutch	1
Swiss	6

DEPENDENTS 212

Placed out in Electoral Districts

Pembina	3	Ponoka	1	Medicine Hat	5
Sturgeon	8	Lacombe	5	High River	7
St. Albert	5	Camrose	5	Nanton	2
Victoria	4	Red Deer	6	Claresholm	2
Stony Plain	3	Innisfail	1	Lethbridge	9
Edmonton	25	Olds	4	Pincher Creek	1
Strathcona	8	Stettler	5	Macleod	2
Vegreville	10	Sedgewick	10	Cardston	10
Vermilion	4	Didsbury	9	Out of Province	12
Alexandra	9	Cochrane	2		
Leduc	5	Calgary	21		
Wetaskiwin	4	Gleichen	5	Total	212

DEPENDENTS 556

Electoral Districts from

Pembina	2	Alexandra	1	Calgary	191
Sturgeon	5	Leduc	1	Gleichen	3
Pakan	3	Ponoka	10	Medicine Hat	15
St. Albert	15	Lacombe	9	High River	5
Victoria	2	Camrose	5	Lethbridge	21
Lac Ste Anne	2	Red Deer	2	Pincher Creek	1
Stony Plain	1	Innisfail	3	Macleod	2
Edmonton	27	Olds	1	From outside Province	6
Strathcona	23	Stettler	3		
Vegreville	10	Sedgewick	5		
Vermilion	1	Didsbury	1	Total	556

DELINQUENTS

Electoral Districts from

Pembina	2	Wetaskiwin	3	Gleichen	2
Sturgeon	6	Ponoka	6	Medicine Hat	14
Pakan	3	Lacombe	2	High River	6
St. Albert	4	Camrose	5	Claresholm	2
Victoria	14	Red Deer	5	Lethbridge	39
Lac Ste Anne	2	Innisfail	2	Pincher Creek	2
Edmonton	186	Olds	6	Macleod	5
Strathcona	35	Stettler	8	Cardston	10
Vegreville	13	Sedgewick	7	Outside Province	23
Vermilion	2	Cochrane	1		
Alexandra	2	Calgary	133		
Leduc	9	Rocky Mountain	57	Total	616

Commissioners under the Children's Protection Act of the Province of Alberta

Francis William Brownlow George	Macleod	June 23, 1911
Thomas Sturlock Belcher	Edmonton	April 1, 1911
William Pentlowe Taylor	Calgary	Dec 1, 1909
John William Costello	Calgary	Dec 1, 1909
Frederick Davis Shaw	Lethbridge	Dec 1, 1909
Walter Stewart Galbraith	Edmonton	Dec 1, 1909
Henry Gilbert	Edmonton	Dec 1, 1909
Henry Allen Gray	Edmonton	Dec 1, 1909
Robert Belcher	Edmonton	Dec 1, 1909
David Milne	Medicine Hat	Dec 1, 1909
S. S. Hopper	Medicine Hat	Dec 1, 1909
Alexander McLennan Gordon	Lethbridge	Mar. 21, 1909
Thomas Albert Norris	Leduc	Oct. 7, 1911

REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF CALGARY

R. B. CHADWICK, Esq.

Supt. Neglected Children, Edmonton, Alta.

Sir:—

The Children's Aid Society of Calgary has gradually been extending the bounds of its influence, and improving its equipment during the year.

Need of a New Shelter

One of the buildings in connection with the old general hospital is still being used as a shelter and detention home. It could hardly be expected, however, that a building designed for hospital purposes could easily be transformed into anything like an ideal home. Despite every attempt at alteration and improvement, the building persists in adhering to its original character. Its inadequacy to meet the growing needs of the society has been fully realized, and a properly constructed, up-to-date shelter, with extensive grounds for the children to work and play in, under supervision, is to be provided in the near future. In the moulding of the character and the correcting of vicious tendencies, home influence, employment, wholesome play and amusements, etc., count for much; and a building so constructed and situated as to make them possible, is regarded as not only desirable, but necessary.

Maintenance

Last year the city voted \$2,500 for the carrying on of the work. This year the grant from the city was \$5,000, an amount which will need to be supplemented to some extent by private donation. Next year the amount will probably have to be doubled again to meet the requirements of extending the work of the society. The cost of maintenance for the past year, including repairs, etc., was \$6,373.49, or an average of \$531 per month.

Admissions and Disposals

The number of children admitted was 122. The reasons for admission were various. A few may be noted: "mother dead," "home unfit," "deserted by parents," "drunkenness and misconduct of father," "deserted by mother," "poverty and illness of mother," "temporary shelter," "delinquency." The number placed in foster homes was 51, returned to parents 55, sent to industrial school 4, to a convent 1. Besides the regular admissions and disposals above referred to, there were a large number of outside or special cases dealt with, these demanding a large proportion of the agent's time, and bringing him into touch with many of the sad misfortunes and tragedies of human life.

Domestic Difficulties

Not the least important part of the agent's work was dealing with cases of estrangements or separation between parents. As a result of judicious counsel and effort, difficulties were adjusted and a new home life established in a number of cases. Work of this kind is not usually reported, and it is only referred to here in order to give some idea of the varied character and extent of the society's work.

Child Labor

It cannot be said that this question is finally settled. The enormous growth of the city, and inflow of foreign immigration are creating conditions which are bound to tax the resources of the society, as well as

of every other public or private institution, to the utmost. Neither churches, schools, hospitals nor hotels are able adequately to meet the demands made upon them. The Children's Aid Society is grappling with the situation, and through the collection of statistics, inspection of places where children are likely to be employed, etc., has already accomplished more than is generally known. Many interesting experiences in connection with this departure of the work could be given. We are face to face with some of the perplexing problems of modern city life and the Children's Aid Society, in keeping with its high aims and ideals, is prepared to take a hand in the solution, as the protector of neglected children, and the guardian of their sacred rights.

Pool Rooms

It is pleasing to be able to report a marked improvement in these places, as far, at least, as the exclusion of persons under 16 years of age is concerned. First of all, a letter was written to each pool room proprietor, calling his attention to the law and inviting his co-operation in the matter of its enforcement. Every proprietor interviewed expressed his approval of the law. During the last five months some sixty-five visits were made to the principal pool rooms of the city, and only in two instances was a boy under 16 found in any of the places visited. As a result of personal inspection, occasional warning and general police supervision, it is safe to say that the law is being well observed, so far at least as it relates to persons under 16 years of age.

Theatres and Picture Shows

On October 23, a circular letter was addressed to every manager of every theatre in the city. Several satisfactory replies were received from these people, all stating that they were in perfect accord with the views expressed in the letter, and that they were prepared to carry out the rules suggested, regarding the exclusion of children during school hours and after 8 o'clock at night unless accompanied by parents or guardians.

Subsequently a letter was addressed to the city commissioners re the matter of the censorship of the moving pictures exhibited here. The matter is now in the hands of the city solicitor. Whether any action in the way of a by-law is taken or not, no harm will result from the attention called to this matter. A petition is now being circulated and will soon be laid before our legislature, now in session, asking for provincial censorship of moving pictures.

Juvenile Court

It is pleasing to report that commissioners, having the powers of a police magistrate, are being appointed to hear and determine complaints against juvenile offenders. The establishment of this court and appointment of an assistant officer will doubtless facilitate the work of the society, especially in dealing with youthful delinquents.

The Society's Beneficent Mission

The door of admission for neglected ones stands invitingly open. To the orphan, the cruelly-treated, the straying, the good offices of the society are kindly extended. These unfortunates are even sought for, and when found are befriended and cared for. Every child has inherent rights as a member of society, even if these are not always recognized, and the aim of the Children's Aid is to give every child its rightful chance of becoming a good citizen. "It is better to make good citizens than to punish criminals." Yes, it is better, and it is cheaper too. It would not be possible under present conditions to eliminate entirely the penal idea from our courts of justice. Yet it will be admitted that the preventive, saving idea, should find larger expression in our methods of dealing with crime and delinquency than it yet does. The great aim of our society in dealing with neglected or delinquent children is not to punish, but to reform and save. And despite the occasional failures, the many encouraging reports received of improved home conditions and child salvation afford convincing proof that the society is fulfilling its beneficial mission.

Acknowledgements

The society would not close its report without expressing grateful appreciation of the city's generous aid and sympathetic co-operation, so essential to the success of the work. Mention would also be made of the kindly aid given by the press in the publication of reports and notices in

reference to the work of the society. To the private citizens who manifested their interest by contributing money, clothing, food, etc., to the visiting physicians for free and efficient services at the home, and to the trustees of Knox church for the use of their comfortable building for meeting purposes, the thanks of the society are also gratefully tendered.

Statistics

Number of children admitted	122
Number discharged	120
Number returned to parents	55
Number sent to hospitals	6
Number sent to industrial school	4
Number sent to convent	1
Number sent to other institutions	1
Number adopted	51
Number died	8
Number work obtained for	8
Number of delinquent cases	42
Number of delinquent males	34
Number of delinquent females	8
Amount paid C. A. by Government	\$ 470.46
Amount paid by parents	406.00
Amount paid by city	4,238.27
Total cost of maintenance	6,373.49
Average monthly expenditure	531.00

A. D. McDONALD, Agent.



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDMONTON AND STRATHCONA CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY FROM NOVEMBER 1st, 1910, TO OCTOBER 31st, 1911

R. B. CHADWICK, Esq.,

Supt. Neglected Children, Edmonton, Alta.

Sir:—

It is now two years since the Children's Aid Society of Edmonton and Strathcona was organized. There have been many important events in the history of this city regarded by our people as more or less significant, but nothing has been done that reflects in a greater degree the new sense of duty that the modern community owes to every individual that comprises it.

During 1910 the Society carried on its work under the difficulties incident to the beginning of a new enterprise. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining a suitable home, and although considerable success has attended the work of the past year, it has been in spite of the wretched facilities afforded the present home, and is due entirely to the efficiency of the staff, the sympathetic co-operation of the city officials, and to the assistance of the Department of Neglected Children. Since the serious epidemic that visited the young children of the Shelter in 1910, the Society has laid it down as a principle of administration, that none but women trained in nursing shall be permitted to be at the head. At the present time the staff includes a trained nurse as matron, an assistant undergraduate, but whose undergraduate training has been along special lines that eminently qualifies her for the position she holds.

During the year under review, the health of the children has been good. Considering the wretched conditions from which many of our children are rescued—malnutrition, unhygienic conditions in the home, and enfeebled condition in which many are admitted,—it is a remarkable tribute to the care and treatment afforded by the matron and the physician in charge that the mortality has been so low, and that the Home has been absolutely free from diseases. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the valuable services of Dr. Folinsbee, who without assurance of remuneration has paid over 200 visits to the Shelter during the year. I may state, however, that the city commissioners have assured me that Dr. Folinsbee's services will be recognized. The true nature of his work will be better understood from his report. During the year the following summary indicates the work done:

CHILDREN DEALT WITH AT EDMONTON SHELTER

Nov. 1st, 1910 to Oct. 31st, 1911.

Admitted	224
In Shelter	14
Discharged	210
Adopted	80
Returned to parents	89
Sent to hospital	20
Sent to reformatory	2
Sent to convents	6
Sent to Ruthenian school	3
Died	3
Deported	1
Ran away	1
Work obtained for	5
Government charges	67
City charges	157

The total cost for maintenance has been \$5,568.00. Against this sum there is offset a charge of \$1,532.00, representing \$1,380.00 paid for government children detained in the Home, and \$152.00 paid by parents for the keep of their children. This, however, does not represent the amount of money collected and spent. As you are well aware, a considerable fraction of the expense of administration is laid upon the Society. This necessitates the collection of a considerable sum of money through annual fees, private subscriptions, and other means. Over \$1,100 was collected in this way by the Society during the past year. The details of expenditure are set forth in the treasurer's statement. Below is appended a statement indicating the various items of expense of maintenance.

Rent	\$ 530.00
Light	50.25
Water	36.00
Phone	20.00
Fuel	236.85
Salaries	1,898.45
Groceries	665.90
Meat	391.80
Milk	305.09
Drugs	256.15
Laundry	7.25
Furniture	392.41
Sundries	788.74
Total cost of operation	<u>\$5,568.89</u>
Amount paid to C. A. S. by Government	\$1,380.00
Amount paid to C. A. S. by parents	<u>151.35</u>
Total	<u>\$1,532.15</u>

As has been pointed out in the Secretary's report, important amendments of the Children's Protection Act have been a new status to the Society. Briefly, the change in the Act places the erection and maintenance of a suitable home upon every city of more than 10,000 population in the Province. It is a matter of congratulation and a tribute to the public spirit of the Edmonton city council that they embarked upon a generous policy in providing a shelter for the needs of the Society. We are within a few weeks of the completion of one of the finest buildings in Canada for carrying on institutional work for neglected children. The new home will be capable of taking charge of 45 children, and will be equipped as a model institution.

I would like to point out in this connection that although the Society has been placed on a new basis with respect to the city, there is an important work for the Society to do. At the present time the administration falls upon the Chief of Police, and the Executive of the Society. By an arrangement entered into early in the year with the city commissioners, the initiation of the expenditure rests with the Society, the city, through the Chief of Police, exercising control by a veto on unnecessary expenditure. This has created an impression in the public mind that since the city has taken over the work, there is little for the Society to do. When one considers, however, the numerous details connected with the management of so many children, their tenderness of years, and the object for which this work is carried on, it will be at once understood that no matter how efficient the police department of the city may be, their work must be supplemented by a body of public spirited men and women to educate and activate the public conscience with regard to the obligations of the community to our unfortunate children, those little ones of whom the Founder of the Christian religion said "Suffer little children to come unto me."

Agent Dealy has done important work both for the Society and for the city. He has been busy every day since his appointment, in ferreting out cases of dependent and neglected children, investigating charges of petty theft, and apprehending offenders, inspecting picture shows, visiting restaurants and other places of employment. He has, on behalf of the Society, inspired a respect for law and public opinion that has been in numerous instances both admonitive and salutary.

A great deal of his work is of such a nature that it is difficult to adequately report upon it. During the year upwards of 30 girls and young women have been rescued from undesirable environments through the efforts of this officer assisted by your department. A number of white-slavers are serving out just sentences in the prisons of this Province. Though the agent's efforts show that 186 cases of delinquency were dealt with during the year, this represents but a fraction of the actual work undertaken. Dozens of boys have been taken to the agent's office and put on probation, and parents have been instructed respecting their duty to their families with good results.

Mention should be made of the work done by Archdeacon Gray, the officer appointed under the Act for the trial of juvenile offenders. These young mischief-makers and quasi-criminals are not tried in the ordinary police courts, and in this respect Alberta is equal with the most advanced states on this continent.

The following summary indicates the work of the agent since his appointment on March 1st:—

DELINQUENTS DEALT WITH IN EDMONTON

Male	137
Female	49
Total	186

Offences

Mischief	51
Theft	67
Burglary	4
Incorrigibility	6
Assault	2
Vagrancy	13
Prostitution	37
Immorality	1
Forgery	5
Total	186

I would like to draw your attention to an important phase of the work that has grown out of the activities of the Society during the last two years. In dealing with so many children it has been found that there is a number, who, through imperfect development and from a semi-imbecile condition, are left upon our hands. It is impossible to find foster homes for these children, and it is just as impossible to return them to their delinquent parents. They become, therefore, a permanent charge upon the Society and an unwholesome influence among the healthy children of the Home. Their presence constitutes a new problem, not to be solved by the Children's Aid Society. The matter was dealt with by the Society at its last annual meeting and a resolution dealing with the problem was passed. The resolution asks that the Provincial Government take steps to deal with it. What is needed is a Provincial Home for degenerates and incurables.

I would like to draw your attention to an observation made by our agent some time ago, namely, that in all his busy investigations and reviewing the work done among boys of the city, he has not encountered a case of delinquency on the part of a Boy Scout. I think that this observation is a conclusive comment on the part which well directed play reacts on child life. The movement for public play grounds should be pressed with all energy upon the authorities.

There is another phase of our work that has engaged the attention during the year. It will be remembered that two years ago the Society took over the organization known at that time as "The Edmonton Creche Association." The work done by that Association, though differing somewhat in character from the work since carried on, is an essential part of any work done on the behalf of the children of the city. Owing to the situation of the present Home on Cameron Street, practically no applications have been made on behalf of Day Nursery Children. This phase of

the work seems to have entirely lapsed. The new Home will be no better situated for this work than the old one, consequently a further obligation is imposed upon the Society to find adequate and suitable quarters for Day Nursery Work. At the last meeting of the Executive, a committee appointed some time ago to inquire into this work, reported. The burden of the report was that the Society having once undertaken this work could not now abandon it, and that some organization should at once be proceeded with to carry it on. This work will constitute an important duty for the Executive and Society for 1912.

JOHN BLUE, President.

Edmonton, Dec. 18, 1911.



